

WHAT IS CLAIMED:

1. A slurry composition comprising solids and a solvent, wherein the solids comprise:
  - a binding agent;
  - a ceramic material; and
  - at least one boron containing compound.
2. A slurry composition according to Claim 1, wherein the ceramic material includes cordierite.
3. A slurry composition according to Claim 1, wherein the solvent comprises water.
4. A slurry composition according to Claim 1, wherein the boron containing compound is selected from the group consisting of boron carbide, boron butoxide, boron nitride, boron nitrate, and mixtures thereof.
5. A slurry composition according to Claim 1, wherein the solids have an average particle size of less than about 2.0 micrometers.

6. A slurry composition according to Claim 1, wherein the ceramic powder comprises cordierite, the boron containing compound is selected from the group consisting of boron carbide, boron nitride, boron butoxide, and mixtures thereof, and the solvent comprises water.

7. A method of protecting a surface of a ceramic body, comprising:  
applying to the surface a slurry composition according to Claim 1.

8. A method of protecting a surface of a ceramic body, comprising the step of applying a slurry composition according to Claim 6 to the surface of the body.

9. A method for protecting a surface of a porous ceramic body, comprising the steps of:

applying to the surface a slurry composition comprising:

a binding agent;

a ceramic material different from the material of the ceramic body;

at least one boron containing compound;

solvent; and

impregnating the slurry into the pores of the ceramic body.

10. A method according to Claim 9, wherein the binding agent comprises silica particles.

11. A method according to Claim 9, wherein the solvent comprises water.
12. A method according to Claim 9, wherein the ceramic material comprises cordierite.
13. A method according to Claim 9, further comprising the steps of:  
drying the slurry in the pores of the ceramic body; and  
firing the dried slurry in the pores.
14. A method according to Claim 9, wherein the ceramic body is provided in the form of a tile.
15. A ceramic body having at least one protected surface, prepared by a process comprising the step of:  
applying to the surface a slurry composition comprising:  
a binding agent comprising silica particles;  
a ceramic material different from that of the ceramic body;  
at least one boron containing compound; and  
solvent.
16. A ceramic body according to Claim 15, wherein the solvent comprises water.

17. A ceramic body according to Claim 15, wherein the ceramic material comprises cordierite.

18. A ceramic body according to Claim 15, wherein the boron containing compound is selected from the group consisting of boron carbide, boron nitride, boron butoxide, and mixtures thereof.

19. A ceramic body according to Claim 15, wherein the ceramic body is in the form of a tile.